

§ 503.70

(c) *Payment of fees and charges.* The fees charged for special services may be paid by check, draft, or postal money order, payable to the Federal Maritime Commission.

[49 FR 44401, Nov. 6, 1984, as amended at 59 FR 59171, Nov. 16, 1994]

Subpart H—Public Observation of Federal Maritime Commission Meetings and Public Access to Information Pertaining to Commission Meetings

§ 503.70 Policy.

It is the policy of the Federal Maritime Commission, under the Provisions of the “Government in the Sunshine Act” (5 U.S.C. 552b, Sept. 13, 1976) to entitle the public to the fullest practicable information regarding the decisional processes of the Commission. The provisions of this subpart set forth the procedural requirements designed to provide the public with such information while continuing to protect the rights of individuals and to maintain the capabilities of the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities under the shipping statutes administered by this Commission.

§ 503.71 Definitions.

The following definitions apply for purposes of this subpart:

(a) *Agency* means the Federal Maritime Commission;

(b) *Information pertaining to a meeting* means, but is not limited to the following: the record of any agency vote taken under the provisions of this subpart, and the record of the vote of each member; a full written explanation of any agency action to close any portion of any meeting under this subpart; lists of persons expected to attend any meeting of the agency and their affiliation; public announcement by the agency under this subpart of the time, place, and subject matter of any meeting or portion of any meeting; announcement of whether any meeting or portion of any meeting shall be open to public observation or be closed; any announcement of any change regarding any meeting or portion of any meeting; and the name and telephone number of the Secretary of the agency who shall

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be designated by the agency to respond to requests for information concerning any meeting or portion of any meeting;

(c) *Meeting* means the deliberations of at least three of the members of the agency which determine or result in the joint conduct of disposition of official agency business, but does not include:

(1) Individual member’s consideration of official agency business circulated to the members in writing for disposition on notation;

(2) Deliberations by the agency in determining whether or not to close a portion or portions of a meeting or series of meetings as provided in §§ 503.74 and 503.75;

(3) Deliberations by the agency in determining whether or not to withhold from disclosure information pertaining to a portion or portions of a meeting or series of meetings as provided in § 503.80; or

(4) Deliberations pertaining to any change in any meeting or to changes in the public announcement of such a meeting as provided in § 503.83;

(d) *Member* means each individual Commissioner of the agency;

(e) *Person* means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or public or private organization, other than an agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 551(1));

(f) *Series of meetings* means more than one meeting involving the same particular matters and scheduled to be held no more than thirty (30) days after the initial meeting in such series.

§ 503.72 General rule—meetings.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in §§ 503.73, 503.74, 503.75 and 503.76, every portion of every meeting and every portion of a series of meetings of the agency shall be open to public observation.

(b) The opening of a portion or portions of a meeting or a portion or portions of a series of meetings to public observation shall not be construed to include any participation by the public in any manner in the meeting. Such an attempted participation or participation shall be cause for removal of any person so engaged at the discretion of the presiding member of the agency.